

**We claim:**

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising  
an amount of a non-binding FK506 analog that is effective in  
stimulating nerve cell growth in a patient;
- 5 and a pharmaceutically suitable excipient.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition further  
comprises a neurotrophic factor other than the non-binding FK506 analog.
- 10 3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the neurotrophic factor is  
selected from the group consisting of NGF, IGF-1, aFGF, bFGF, PDGF, BDNF,  
CNTF, GDNF, NT-3, NT 4/5, and mixtures thereof.
- 15 4. A method of stimulating nerve cell growth comprising  
administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising administering to a patient  
an amount of a non-binding FK506 analog that is effective to stimulate nerve cell  
growth.
- 20 5. A method for stimulating neurite outgrowth comprising  
contacting a nerve cell with a composition comprising a neurotrophic amount of a  
non-binding FK506 compound.
- 25 6. A method of identifying a non-binding FK506 analog that  
stimulates nerve cell growth, the method comprising:  
screening a plurality of FK506 analogs for binding to FKBP-12,  
selecting a FK506 analog that does not bind FKBP-12, and  
assaying the FK506 analog that does not bind FKBP-12 for activity  
in promoting nerve cell growth.

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add  
G2